

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00384 221113Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W  
-----221116Z 011317 /11

P R 220915Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 250  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 0384

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR NEA ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON,  
TEL AVIV FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, US, IS  
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM PICKERING

REF: TEL AVIV 0437 (NOTAL)

1. TOM DUNNIGAN IN TEL AVIV WAS APPROACHED BY SHLOMO AVINERI  
ON QUESTION OF "WHEN" I WOULD BE COMING OVER AS THEY WOULD  
LIKE TO HAVE AN INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. AVINERI  
CITED RECENT VISIT BY MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE, JOHN MOBERLY,  
TO "WEST BANK" AND FACT THAT JORDANIANS HAD NOT REACTED  
NEGATIVELY AS POSSIBLE REASON FOR OUR REVIEWING SITUATION  
ON SUCH TRAVEL.

2. QUITE INDEPENDENTLY, MOBERLY BROUGHT WORD OF "GREETINGS"  
BACK TO ME FROM HIS VISIT FROM MOSHE RAVIV IN ISRAEL MFA  
AMERICAN DEPARTMENT WHOM I KNEW IN WASHINGTON AND HAVE  
SEEN SINCE -- FLEETINGLY FOR A HANDSHAKE IN THE MIDDLE  
OF THE BRIDGE WHEN VISITORS WERE CROSSING.

3. MOBERLY'S VISIT WAS CLEARED WITH THE KING. I AM  
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LESS CERTAIN THAT HE TOLD GOJ HE WAS TALKING WITH  
ISRAELI MFA OFFICIALS, HE ASKED ME TO KEEP THAT FACT  
CLOSE-HOLD, BUT IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT HE DID.

4. I HAVE TOLD TOM DUNNIGAN THAT I WOULD BE IN TOUCH  
WITH YOU DIRECTLY ON THE QUESTION AND ASKED HIM TO SAY  
NOTHING TO AVINERI UNTIL I CAN GET YOUR OWN THINKING AND

THAT OF OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE CONCERNED IN WASHINGTON.

5. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, WHICH STILL SEEMS TO PREDOMINATE IN MY OWN MIND, IS THE TRADITIONAL ISSUE OF OUR NOT WISHING TO PLACE JORDAN AND OURSELVES IN A DIFFICULT POSITION BY HAVING MORE APPEAR TO GO ON THAN ACTUALLY DOES. SINCE OUR RELATIONS ARE PARTICULARLY CLOSE HERE AND CONFIDENCES EXCHANGED ON A BASIS THAT IS RATHER HARD TO BEAT, I WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE THE JORDANIANS REACT BY SAYING GO AHEAD, ONLY TO COME BACK AND FIND SOME DOORS AND MINDS SHUT TO DEALING WITH ME. ALSO, THERE ARE THE OTHER ARABS. WE KNOW THE SYRIANS MAKE IT A PRACTICE TO KEEP OUT ALL OF OUR PEOPLE ASSIGNED TO TEL AVIV AND JERUSALEM, AND WOULD NOT WELCOME ANYONE THEY KNEW WAS GOING BACK AND FORTH WITH CERTAINTY. JORDANIAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS BEING WHAT THEY ARE IT MIGHT BE WISER TO BE CAUTIOUS. SECRECY WOULD HELP A LOT, BUT I SEE NO WAY THAT IT COULD BE MAINTAINED IF I CROSS THE BRIDGE. FINALLY, I SEE LITTLE THAT I COULD ACTUALLY PASS ON TO THE ISRAELIS THAT THEY CANNOT GLEAN -- AND BETTER -- FROM TEL AVIV AND YOU IN WASHINGTON. FINALLY, THERE IS THE QUESTION OF OTHERS FROM WASHINGTON WHO MIGHT BE MAKING TRIPS AROUND THE AREA, AND HOW AND IN WHAT WAYS YOU WISH TO PLAN FOR THOSE VISITS.

6. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISSUE, WHILE I CANNOT PREDICT, THERE IS ALWAYS A CHANCE THE KING WOULD SAY GO AHEAD, RECOGNIZING THAT SUCH MIGHT HELP TO IMPROVE ISRAELI PERCEPTIONS OF WHAT GOES ON OVER HERE. THERE  
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IS THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT ISSUE TOO -- I THINK THE JORDANIANS GENUINELY APPRECIATE THE VISITORS WE HAVE FROM TEL AVIV AND JERUSALEM AND THE INSIGHTS THEY BRING, AND IT MIGHT HELP TO ASK KING ABOUT RECIPROCATING. MY HOPE CERTAINLY WOULD BE THAT WHOEVER IS NAMED FOR TEL AVIV MIGHT HIMSELF SOMETIME COME OVER, BUT THAT ALSO WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY PLANNED.

7. ON BALANCE, I CAME OUT AGAINST, BUT WOULD LIKE TO BE SURE THERE ARE NO CONSIDERATIONS AT YOUR END WHICH I MAY HAVE OVERLOOKED OR NOT BE AWARE OF. I DO THIS SOMEWHAT REGRETFULLY BECAUSE THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ISSUES ABOUT WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO ENLIGHTEN MYSELF FURTHER ON THE "OTHER SIDE", SOME ON WHICH I COULD POSSIBLY BE HELPFUL THERE, AND FINALLY AN URGE TO TRAVEL IN THAT DIRECTION AND HAVE A LOOK OVER THE GROUND WHICH I HAVE FOR SO LONG LOOKED AT LIKE MOSES FROM THIS SIDE ONLY.

8. IF YOU AGREE, I SUGGEST WE ASK TOM TO TELL SHLOMO  
AVINERI THAT I HAVE NO CURRENT PLANS TO COME OVER AND  
GIVEN THE EXPECTED PACE OF EVENTS HERE WILL WANT TO  
STICK CLOSE FOR TIME BEING. HE COULD TELL HIM THAT I  
APPRECIATE THE INVITATION AND HOPE TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THEM  
UP ON IT SOMETIME.  
PICKERING

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, US, IS, (ATHERTON, ALFRED L JR), (AVINERI, SHLOMO)  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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